

Excerpts from the CPR Commission Draft Report

REORGANIZATION

California Service Corps

Community service is a core value of the people of California, but recent trends show a decline in the number of people volunteering their time. Currently there are four key service and volunteer programs including the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism, the California Conservation Corps in the Resources Agency, the Mentoring Program in the Health and Human Services Agency, and the Arts Council. These independent service and volunteer programs will be consolidated into an integrated California Service Corps.

Public Comment:

14 comments were received for the recommendations in this section. 11 comments expressed opposition. No comments expressed opposition. 3 comments were neutral.

PROS:

- No testimony submitted.

CONS:

- The California Arts Council should not be located in the California Service Corps. This move may diminish the positive impacts of the Arts Council. For example, the California Summer School for the Arts program is essential in providing students a forum where they can learn how to think creatively and network with other artists in the state. In addition, the program provides opportunities for economically, culturally, and linguistically challenged students. This important program requires dedicated funding that may be lost in the proposed structure.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- It is recommended that state money slated for allocation to the California Conservation Corp not be reallocated, regardless of donations received. The donations received should be reinvested into the California Conservation Corps in order to increase membership and the length of time citizens participate in the corps. For example, the donations could be used to provide extra compensation for individuals who pursue a leadership role in the Corps. This would encourage corps members to be more responsible and provide an incentive to stay with the program.
- The California Conservation Corps should continue to be an entrepreneurial entity that contracts out to existing state departments.
- The California Arts Council provides leadership in promoting art and culture in California.

The recommendation to place the council and other agencies serving the artistic, economic, and cultural needs of California within a single department should be considered. By doing this, California would be able to create a more cohesive arts and culture agenda.

- The arts should be recognized as a major industry in the state of California. To this end, the California Arts Council should be included with other businesses in the state.
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ETV 29

Restructure the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

Issue:

State and federal volunteer and service programs are fragmented across numerous state agencies.

SOLUTIONS:

- Rename the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) the California Service Corps to better reflect the broader mission of the organization.
- Transfer the following programs to the new California Service Corps: The Governor's Mentoring Partnership; Academic Volunteer and Mentor Service Program; Senior Corps; California Arts Council; California Summer School for the Arts; and the California Conservation Corps.
- Promote increased awareness of private giving to support the work of the State through creation of philanthropic liaison activities and expanded public outreach.

Public Comment:

15 comments were received for this recommendation. 2 comments expressed support. 11 comments expressed opposition. 2 comments were neutral.

PROS:

- The organizational changes could provide centralized leadership across the spectrum of these organizations. The changes could provide greater visibility and program efficiency for these agencies.

CONS:

- The mission of the Arts Council and the role of the California Summer School for the Arts

might not fit with the mission of the California Service Corps. This move may diminish the role that the arts play in California's economy.

- This proposal may result in funding cuts to the agencies that are being assimilated into the California Service Corps. They may have less stature than they previously had.
- Philanthropic giving should be between the giver and the receiver. The state's involvement could open the door to coercion; and it might be cumbersome for the state to manage philanthropic giving.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- In addition to the proposed changes, create a California Human Development Corps that would complement the activities of the California Service Corps and promote the full spectrum of service or volunteer activities and civic engagement.
 - Group the state's artistic and cultural services together in an Office of Cultural Affairs that would have responsibility for the arts, museums, historical collections, and promoting the revenue producing power of California's creative community.
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RES 09**Centralize California Heritage Programs****Issue:**

Art, history, and culture functions pursued by the state are fragmented among state agencies and state elective officeholders, resulting in duplication, confusion, inefficiency, and counterproductive competition.

SOLUTIONS:

- Consolidate selected cultural heritage programs in the Department of Parks and

Recreation (DPR), or its successor, or in the Office of the Secretary of State. Legislation should designate DPR, or its successor, as California's history, culture and arts agency.

- Create a nonprofit public corporation under state control to provide a more effective, lower cost/higher revenue mechanism for funding and operating museums, historic sites, and programs.

Public Comment:

15 comments were received for this recommendation. 3 comments expressed support. 4 comments expressed opposition. 8 comments were neutral.

PROS:

- Cultural and historical resource protection efforts in California are fragmented. This fragmentation undermines the effectiveness of state efforts and leads to uncoordinated, hit-and-miss approaches that ignore the importance of these resources to future generations and to the economy.

CONS:

- The specific proposal misses the mark by eliminating critical state entities, appearing to misunderstand the specific nature and functions of some entities.
- The State Historical Resources Commission should not be eliminated. It fulfills a vital federally required function – project review for federally funded infrastructure projects to determine the impact of those projects on historical resources. If this function is not performed, the state will be ineligible for the federal funding.
- The existence of the State Historical Resource Commission entitles California to about \$1 million in federal funding annually, which funds the work of the Office of Historic Preservation.
- The State Historical Resources Commission is the body that determines whether applications for properties to be listed on the National Historical Registry should be approved. This approval is a fundamental function that preserves historical resources, monuments and places of interest.
- The California Room and its collection of books, photographs, and other documents is a library function that the State Archives is not equipped to perform. Removing it from the State Library will mean that inquiries from the Legislature and the public will be responded to in an incomplete manner.

Resource Conservation and Protection 357

CONSIDERATIONS:

- The state should consider an alternative model, a Cultural Affairs Division, such as the ones that are already place in New Mexico and Nevada, among other states.
- Consideration should be given to a different organizational model that separates the historical and cultural functions into a distinct unit that would include the California Endowment, the California Arts Council, the Native American Heritage Commission, the State Historical Resources Commission, elements of the State Park system that are cultural or historical in nature, the State Library, and state museums (including the Science Center and African-American museum). This unit could remain within a Parks, History and Culture division or become a separate Cultural Affairs division within the proposed Department of Natural Resources.